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Friday, March 20, 1953

Had a talk with Doug Dillon this morning about what tactics might be followed in the Washington meetings between our people and the French next week. Charles Auchincloss came to see me with his daughter, and afterwards I lunched with Alphand Chez Marius. I found him encouraged regarding the Protocols. He is leaving with the other French officials for the United States Tuesday night, and says [redacted] his Government is anxious to have the Protocols at least tentatively agreed upon before this departure.

I had seen General Handy yesterday and he [redacted] suggested [redacted] I should talk to Colonel Gillette, [redacted] one of the five officers detailed from the General's Headquarters to cooperate with us on EDC questions. Gillette explained to me that the work of his staff was [redacted] much hampered by the fact that neither he nor the other officers spoke either French or German. This makes any contribution from them impossible. Walter Hill of the International Bank came to see me about a possible loan to the Coal and Steel Community which Eugene Black discussed some time ago with Jean Monnet. I had spoken to Jean about this in Luxembourg, and it will be the subject of further conversations.

I went to see René Pleven at six o'clock and had a satisfactory talk with him regarding the EDC. He was [redacted] pleased with the speech made yesterday at his Party Congress by Pinay. The proponents of the Treaty have at least closed ranks and are being [redacted] voluble in [redacted] support of it. It seems to me there has been a distinct change of climate in the last few days, and the prospects for French ratification have improved.

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